

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0033

EXDIS NOFORN

DEPT PLEASE PASS DEFENSE

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: NATO TREATMENT OF US PROPOSAL ON AIR MANPOWER

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0029

1. IN VIEW OF THE REQUIREMENT IN THE NEW US POSITION THAT NO COMMITMENT AS TO THE SPECIFIC SIZE OF POSSIBLE US AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I SHOULD BE MADE TO THE EAST AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD PROPOSE A REVISION IN POINT 7(D) OF REF TO THE EFFECT THAT "IF AN INDIVIDUAL PARTICIPANT DOES DECIDE TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN ITS REDUCTIONS, THE INCLUDED AIR MANPOWER COULD BE UP TO, BUT NO MORE THAN, 10 PERCENT OF ITS REDUCTIONS." POINT 7 (E) WOULD BE CHANGED TO READ THAT "ON THE BASIS, THE US WOULD BE WILLING TO INCLUDE IN ITS PHASE I REDUCTIONS AIR FORCE PERSONNEL. THE SPECIFIC AMOUNT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT A LATER TIME."

2. WHILE THE NEW GUIDANCE ON THIS POINT IS NOT SPECIFIC, ITS REQUIREMENT THAT THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CURRENT WESTERN PHASE I PROPOSAL SHOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED WOULD APPEAR TO ARGUE IN THE DIRECTION OF LIMITING WESTERN

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REQUIREMENTS FOR TOTAL SOVIET REDUCTIONS TO 68,000 MEN

AND PUTTING IN OPTIONAL AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS UNDER THAT FIGURE. FIGURES AVAILABLE LOCALLY ON STRENGTHS OF THE SOVIET TANK ARMIES IN THE REDUCTION AREA WOULD INDICATE THAT THE WEST COULD MAINTAIN ITS REQUIREMENT FOR WITHDRAWAL OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY WHILE ALSO MAKING IT OPTIONAL FOR THE SOVIETS TO TAKE SOME PHASE I REDUCTIONS IN AIR MANPOWER.

3. WE NOTE IN USNATO 0631 FURTHER EVIDENCE OF FRG SENSITIVITY TO THE POTENTIAL PRECEDENT-SETTING EFFECTS OF INCLUDING US AIR MANPOWER. WE BELIEVE THESE CONCERNS MIGHT BE MET MORE EFFECTIVELY THAN AT PRESENT BY FORMULATING THE PROPOSAL TO BE MADE TO THE EAST IN THE WAY WE HAVE SUGGESTED.

4. WHEN THE TIME COMES TO TAKE OPTION 3 INTO THE NATO COUNCIL FOR CONSULTATION, WE BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SUGGEST TO THE ALLIES THAT, IN ORDER TO GAIN CREDIT FOR POSSIBLE US AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS UNDER OPTION 3, THE ALLIES SHOULD BE PREPARED TO PROPOSE TO THE EAST VOLUNTARY REDUCTIONS OF AIR MANPOWER IN PHASE I, AND THAT OPTION 3 AND THIS AIR MANPOWER PROPOSAL SHOULD BE PRESENTED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THE IMPACT OF OPTION 3 ON THE EAST. IN SO DOING, HOWEVER, THE US SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT IT WOULD NOT NECESSARILY RESTRICT ITS POTENTIAL AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS SOLELY TO THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH OPTION 3. IN THE MEANWHILE, IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE TO WORK TOWARDS MAKING INCLUSION OF US AIR MANPOWER IN PHASE I MORE ACCEPTABLE TO THE ALLIES AND TO POSTPONE FOR LATER CONSIDERATION THE ISSUE OF WHEN AND IN WHAT CONNECTION THE US PROPOSAL ON US MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN PHASE I SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE EAST. RESOR

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED DEFENSE

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